

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School
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Update letter: Sunday 22nd March 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

As I sit at home writing this on a beautiful, crisp, sunny Sunday morning, it is difficult to reconcile the calm and peace of the day with the reality of the pandemic gripping the world and challenging us all on so many levels.

From tomorrow, school is closed and we have been asked to provide work for students to do at home ... as well as providing some education and care for key workers and for vulnerable students. The key principle from the government is that, "if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be". I hope that you will be patient and understanding as we launch into a new venture of providing online learning. Some schools have already started using online learning as part of their general curriculum provision and the transition for them will be easy. – we are not there yet! Although, the fact that we have been using 'Show My Homework' for the last year, is a great benefit and this will be the main platform through which we will share work. Please be reassured though, that we are not expecting you to become substitute teachers. Everyone is in the same situation, so please don't worry that students are falling behind and don't worry if you don't have access to a computer for everyone in the household! We will have time together when this crisis is over to catch up and patch up.

For some students (and parents), a regular routine might be a good thing and I know that some students had already planned out timetables last week. One alternative might be to mirror what we are doing in school:

- 9.00 Reading time in allocated groups
- 9.20 Session 1 (1 hour 40 mins)
- 11.00 Break
- 11.30 Session 2 (1 hour 30 mins)
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 Session 3 (1 hour 40 mins)
- 3.40 End of the day

You might put something together like this Family Timetable:

	7-8am	8-9	9-10	10-10.45	15 mins	11-12pm	12-1pm
B	Sleep 	Up and breakfast 	Shower/dressed 	English or Maths 	Break	Crafts with mum 	Lunch
Mum	Up and breakfast 	Helping B	Working 	Helping B		With B	
Dad	Up and breakfast 	Working 	Working 	Working 		Working 	



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan

Acting Assistant Headteacher / DSL: Mrs J Davies

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	1-2pm	2-3pm	15 min	3.15-4pm	4-6pm	6-7pm	7-8pm
B	Project with Dad 	Education TV 	Break	Cooking with Dad 	Freetime 	Dinner	Freetime 
Mum	Working 	Working 		Working 	Working 		Working 
Dad	With B	Working 		With B	Working 		Working 

OR you could think about organising the day around some online/youtube events. Current events we're aware of include:

9.00 Joe Wicks workout - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rs3rClhtQso>

9.45 Jane Considine's writing challenge - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rs3rClhtQso>

In a letter from a Headteacher which is being shared on Facebook, I quote and share the following advice/feelings:

"What kids need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. And that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and love your kids a bit more. Play outside and go on walks. Bake cookies and paint pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing." I whole-heartedly agree with all of that (apart from going on walks – which you would need to do respecting social distancing expectations!) and would urge you to take a measured, considered approach to learning at home.

For those of our families with a faith, it is during such times as we are in now that our faith is truly tested. Our value of the month – endurance – is turning out to be rather apt – endurance being "the ability to endure an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way". We will prevail and get through this difficult time together. Whatever your faith or belief, take time to stop, to pause and to be grateful for the love of those around you. If you need a prayer, I found this one from Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference:

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.
Amen

Try to help each other out and please keep in touch through email, through WEDUC (if you haven't signed up, you can still do this!) and through 'Show My Homework'.

With all best wishes

MG Simpson

Headteacher